

SECRET

21 October 1947

TO : COPS

FROM : Chief, FBM

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Use of Zsolt Aradi.

- Aradi, Zsolt*
1. Assuming that all difficulties as to naturalization of Aradi and his family have been straightened out, we recommend that his employment by this organization be continued.
 2. Appraisal of his contacts and production, and conversations with various staff members, show that his best production undoubtedly lies in the field of positive intelligence on the subject of Vatican policy. He has a Catholic and Jesuitical education, giving him the appropriate background for this type of work, and is estimated by C to be perhaps our best operator in this field at present. His past operations, as well as his normal social and occupational background, have provided him with a wide range of contacts, most of which deal with this target.
 3. Aradi should encounter only minor difficulties in obtaining cover as a correspondent in Italy, since he is a competent journalist. If we decide to return him to Italy as a correspondent, he will necessarily have to work out most of the details himself. We may be able to assist him in many ways, as for example with recommendations to possible employers.
 4. Since Aradi is well known as a rightist, both in Hungary and Italy, (as well as having once been named in a Hungarian newspaper editorial as an American intelligence agent), he must be considered partially blown to other intelligence services, and will have to operate on a semi-overt basis. We feel that his cover is little more than a valid reason for his presence in Italy, although it will to some extent screen his intelligence contacts as well as contacts with his case officer.
 5. Since he has functioned as a staff officer in the past, the change to chief agent status may be somewhat difficult for him to make. However, since various staff members have pointed out that he finds enjoyment in the work as such, rather than in his official position, we believe that the necessity for such handling of his case can be made clear to him.

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SECRET

6. Aradi has been engaged recently on the operation of Project BELLABONNA. According to the head of the SC desk for Germany, the SC value of this operation is almost nil; and the positive product has been insignificant. On the other hand, he has demonstrated the ability to develop contacts in Bavaria among potential members of the future German government. Exploitation of these capabilities will not be hampered by cover as a correspondent in Italy, since he will always have sufficient reason to travel, especially between the Holy See and Catholic Bavaria.

7. The following action is therefore recommended:

a) That he be debriefed extensively as to current operations on his arrival, as well as on the Vatican situation;

b) That he be assisted in establishing residence here and in effecting his naturalization;

c) That all aspects of his future operations be discussed with him in detail, both as to main targets and possible cover arrangements;

d) That, in the absence of indications that another course of action would be preferable, plans be made through FBPI to obtain cover as a correspondent for his return to Italy, where he will operate mainly on positive intelligence targets concerning the Vatican.

W
RICHARD HELMS

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APPENDIX I

Attached to Memo 21/10/47
FOM To COPS

NAME: Aradi, Zsolt

CODE: Carryall, formerly Kilkenny, Sarazen, no pseudonym known.

PERSONAL HISTORY

Date of Birth: 29 April 1908
Place of Birth: Zombor, Hungary
Father: Arpad, born in Szolnok, Hungary in 1877; converted to Catholicism from Jewish faith
Mother: Julianna (born Szelay) born in Gyongyos, Hungary, now living in Balatonkaratty, Hungary, with her husband.
Wife: Erdmute Ach, born in Koenigsberg, East Prussia, in 1912; now living in Rome.
Children: Claudio, 11
Juliana, 5
Michael, 2
One of the children is his wife's from a previous marriage, and all three are now in Rome with the mother.
Nationality: Stateless
Documentation: None legally; his wife and children have Hungarian passports on which the visas are due to expire and cannot be renewed.
Education: Elementary school 1914-1918 in Magyarovar, Hungary and Vienna; High school from 1919-1931 in Trencsen and Kaposvar, Hungary; University of Budapest Law School from 1926-1931.
Religion: Hungarian Catholic (moderate)
Politics: Member of Kereszteny Party.
Member of Free Hungarian Committee, Rome.
Christian Socialist Unions.
In general to be described as liberal, right of center.
Work History: 1928-1943, free lance journalist and writer on Hungarian periodicals.
Founded Korunk Szava (Roman Catholic Socialist Review)
Editor of Usker (Uj Kor)
On managerial staff of Magyarasag before it turned Nazi; Editor of Nemzeti Ujsag
June 1941-June 1943 Press Attache to Hungarian Consulate, Milano; June 1943-May 1944 Press Attache to Hungarian Legation to the Holy See.
At least Magyar, Italian and English. Probably French and German.
Languages:
RECRUITMENT: On recommendation of Baron Ap6r, Hungarian Minister to the Vatican, and confirmation from Myron C. Taylor, Presidential representative to the Holy See, done by Robert P. Joyce.

SECRET

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Transferred to Aragon

Germany 277

Page 10.		AUSTRIA #11		Vol. C-3 to B-2	
Name		Aradi, Zsolt		Date of Birth 29/4/08 Zombor, Hungary	
Address		Via Giuseppe de Notaris No. 5, Rome, Italy		(Tel. 875-005) 11/7/45	
Nationality		Hungarian		Citizenship stateless	
Race		white		Religion Catholic (father was a Jew)	
Family Background		Father: Arpad, b. Szolnok, Hungary, 1877; Mother: Julianna, nee Szalay, b. Gyongos, Hungary; both living at Balatonkaratty, Hungary. Wife: Edgitta Ach, b. 1912, Koanigsherg, Ger., living in Rome. Education 14-18, elementary school, Magyarovar, Vienna, Austria; 19-26, high school in Trencsen & Kaposvar, Hungary; 26-31, University of Budapest.			
Work History		Active in youth movements & for religious & political magazines (Catholic press) in Hungary; 33-44 Hungarian newspaperman in Rome; 41-44, Press Attache with Hungarian Legation to the Holy See. <i>see reference</i>			
Military Service		none			
Religion		Catholic (father was a Jew) Moderate Strong Rabid			
Politics		Christian Socialist Union Moderate Strong Rabid			
Languages		Magyar			
Special Skills & Qualifications					
Contacts		The Vatican, Hungarian intelligence, <i>see reference</i>			
Motivation					
Contact - by whom, when, where?		Reference Documents			
OSS Rome 6/44		IN 27990 11/7/45			
P-13? Innocent? Period		#30087 11/11/44			
Pass word or Pick-up Signal:					
Is contact considered entirely personal?					
Operational History		Recruited as consultant on Hungarian intelligence and has continued his collaboration with SSU. Formerly source "Sarazen". He is our expert on Vatican affairs.			
Evaluation		(5)			
Source: Date of Information		Kapok #31, (1098), 3/9/46			
Remarks and Amplification:		See Back of Sheet.			

See JCX 002-214, serials 13/4/45 and X. TS 278, Mr. Kliesen.
Some question of his sincerity -

Original organizer of "Free Hungarian Movement," formed with permission of Allied authorities - IBX 209 Rome 13/9/45

IN 38162 Prag 14/6/46 - Dr. Giza SOOS singled out; as being in Amer. pay in article published in Hungarian weekly 16A2SAG.

Personal data - Wife, Margaret Erdmute, German descent, Hungarian national 3 children; - Claudio, 11; Juliana, 5; Michael, 2 (1944)
Parents - father, inspector of schools (Jew converted to Catholicism); Mother; school teacher (Aryan Catholic).

Work History - 1928-1943, free lance journalist and writer, Hungarian periodicals. Founded "Korunk Szava" (Roman Catholic Socialist Review); also editor of "Usker" (also written "Uj Kor"), on managerial staff of "Magyarsag" before it became a Nazi organ; later an editor of "Nemzeti Ujsag".

June, 1941 - June, 1943 - Press Attache, Hungarian Consulate at Milano.
6/43 - 5/44 Hung. Press Attache, Legation to the Holy See.

Politics member of Kereszteny Party (not suppressed after putsch 19/3 (44) Christian Socialist Unions. Member Free Hungarian Committee, Rome.

Contacts Barron Gabriel Apor (subject claims to be intimate and to have influence with the Baron), former Hungarian Minister to Holy See.
Address (1944) Via Martiri Fascisti, 75.

Rev. Luttor (1944 head of Hungarian Legation to Holy See)

Szasz - Director Royal Hungarian Legation at Quirinal (1944 under protection of Swedish)

Seredi - Prince Primate of Hungary

Szentmiklesy, Szegedi Maszak, Count Dessewffy Gyula)

Document #30067, 11/11/44

On trip to Rome in early March, 1947, source had conference with Ferenc Vajta, former Hungarian newspaperman, who had worked for French IS and had been arrested by both CIC and French because of alleged Nazi activity. See Q file.

Appointment arranged by Father Tibor Gallus, head of Hung. relief in Rome
Information from PIRA-299, 14/3/47, Subject: Ferenc Vajta, French Agent.

Current objectives: Moving among Catholic clergy to explore possibilities of obtaining operational facilities, such as courier services and safe houses, in addition to his efforts to develop long-range sources.

Initial contacts with Bavarian Minister of Economics provide lead to penetration of future German government.

MGMA-33, Progress Report for June, 14 July 1947

SECRET

APPENDIX I (Continued)

NAME: Aradi, Zsolt

REFERENCES:

Personal
for
Zsolt ARADI

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~~APP I p. 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100~~

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